

1 Samuel 7:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So the Philistines were subdued, and they came no more into the coast of Israel: and the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.

Analysis

So the Philistines were subdued, and they came no more into the coast of Israel: and the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.

The verse summarizes lasting effects of Mizpah's victory. 'Subdued' ('kana') indicates humiliation and forced submission - the dominant Philistines now acknowledged Israelite resurgence. The phrase 'came no more into the coast of Israel' describes cessation of territorial aggression during Samuel's leadership. Most significantly, 'the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines' reverses the earlier narrative where God's hand struck Israel (1 Samuel 5:6, 9). The divine hand that plagued Philistia for taking the Ark now actively opposed their military ambitions. The qualifier 'all the days of Samuel' indicates this peace lasted only during prophetic leadership - subsequent events under Saul would see Philistine resurgence. Human faithfulness and divine protection form interconnected realities; when Israel later rejected Samuel's leadership pattern, protection diminished.

Historical Context

The Philistine threat would resurface powerfully under Saul's reign, suggesting this verse describes relative peace rather than permanent elimination. Archaeological evidence confirms continued Philistine presence in their traditional

territory. Samuel's authority apparently maintained a buffer protecting Israelite settlements.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What does the connection between Samuel's leadership and Philistine restraint teach about faithful leadership's protective role?
2. How does God's 'hand' both protect His people and oppose their enemies?

Interlinear Text

were subdued	So the Philistines	H3808	no more	H5750	and they came	H935
H1365	H6430	H3254			H3068	H6430
into the coast	of Israel	H1961	and the hand	H3027	of the LORD	So the Philistines
H1366	H3478				H3068	
all the days	of Samuel	H8050				
H3605	H3117					

Additional Cross-References

Judges 13:1 (References Lord): And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years.

